

## Freighter reported missing in Gulf

BAHRAIN (R) — A Maltese-registered freighter bound for Bombay has been reported missing in the Gulf, shipping sources said Tuesday. They said the 2,958-tonne Rahim Three left Doha in the central Gulf with a full load of scrap metal last Thursday but failed to appear in the Emirate of Bahrain or bunker fuel as scheduled on April 1. Authorities in Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Iran had been alerted but so far there was no word on the whereabouts of the ship, they said. "We have no idea where the Rahim Three is — anything could have happened," said a spokesman for Al Gaffi Al Ghannam and Al Qatib, the vessel's agents in Dubai. He said the ship was owned by the Hong Kong-based firm United Ship Management. Officials at Bahrain Radio said an alert issued Monday seeking notification from any ship which sighted or had radio contact with the Rahim Three was still in effect. "During the Iran-Iraq war, it wasn't unusual for ships to just disappear in this part of the world," said one source who wished to remain anonymous. "But since the ceasefire, everything seems to have calmed down. It's a complete mystery."

Volume 14 Number 4054

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1989, SHABAAN 29, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## Jordan, Norway discuss Mideast developments

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Tuesday exchanged views with the visiting Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, on bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern, in addition to the latest developments in the region.

Qasem voiced Jordan's appreciation of the positive stand adopted by foreign ministers of the four Scandinavian countries during their meeting last month.

Stoltenberg arrived here Tuesday morning from the Israeli occupied West Bank on the second leg of his three-nation tour which also includes Syria.

In an arrival statement, the Norwegian minister said his country supports the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, to be attended by all parties involved in the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which has been recognised by the Palestinians and the Arabs as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Stoltenberg pointed out that the Palestinians have the right to select their own representatives to the international peace conference.

He noted that his country has initiated contacts with the PLO



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Tuesday receives the Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg (Petra photo)

and its Chairman Yasser Arafat following the Palestine National Council (PNC) resolutions last year to recognise the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and denounce terrorism.

Stoltenberg stressed the importance of the time factor and the need for holding the conference as early as possible, and said there are still many obstacles and challenges which should be overcome before the conference is convened.

Stoltenberg said his tour aims at obtaining first-hand information on the latest developments in the region and the efforts made to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Later Tuesday Stoltenberg arrived in Damascus for talks with Syrian officials on the latest developments in the region and the efforts currently underway to ensure convening an international

peace conference.

Stoltenberg and foreign ministers of Sweden, Denmark and Finland last month met in Copenhagen to discuss the Middle East and issued a statement welcoming the new developments on the Palestinian scene, following the PNC resolution and the initiation of dialogue between the PLO and the United States.

The statement said that the steps taken to push the peace forward entails a positive and urgent Israeli response.

In their statement the four foreign ministers also voiced their respective countries' full support of holding an international peace conference under the United Nations auspices, to be attended by all parties involved in the conflict.

They also called for the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 constitute the basis for the conference.

## Mubarak defends scope, pace of Egypt's economic reforms

WASHINGTON (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak defended the scope and pace of his nation's economic reforms Tuesday and told members of Congress that Egypt needs continued high level U.S. economic assistance.

Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell described the 90-minute private meeting between Mubarak and 15 senators as "very beneficial and fruitful" but said commitments on the aid issue were neither sought nor given.

Both Mitchell and Senate Republican leader Bob Dole said senators told the Egyptian president that the United States must keep the large U.S. budget deficit in mind in dealing with all requests for economic and military assistance.

Mitchell said senators appeared favourably impressed with Mubarak's description of Egypt's economic reform programme, including the reduction of subsidies on a number of consumer products and revisions in the country's tax structure.

"Obviously every national leader confronts the same general problem of the pace of economic reform," Mitchell said. "We confront a similar problem in dealing with our budget deficit."

On another subject, Dole said Mubarak flatly denied reports that Egypt intends to acquire chemical weapons and said he was "quite angry about beingumped in" with other nations, which are believed by the United States to be ready to produce

such weapons.

Mubarak met Monday with President George Bush, who said he has set as U.S. goals in the Middle East an end to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and fulfillment of political rights for the 1.2 million Palestinian Arabs who live in the territories.

Bush also reaffirmed a U.S. commitment to Israel's security and said all the goals were shared by Egypt.

The statement appeared to put pressure on Israel in advance of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's prime ministerial visit to Washington Wednesday and Thursday. Shamir arrived in New York Tuesday.

Mubarak, answering questions at a dinner Monday night, said he was not asking the Bush administration to pressure Israel. "Exercising pressure won't solve anything," he said.

Bassam Abu Sharif, said the PLO feels "this will give a real push for peace efforts in the Middle East."

Mubarak, in the second day of his visit, also was meeting Tuesday with House of Representatives leaders, Secretary of State James Baker and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady.

The Egyptian leader is hoping Congress will approve new weapons sales once they are formally proposed by the Bush administration and that \$230 million in U.S. economic aid will be released. The aid was withheld in March pending reforms in the way Egypt manages its economy which that country must have in place by June.

Bush did not spell out the political rights he seeks for the Palestinians on the West Bank

and in Gaza. Nor did he amplify his call for an end to Israeli occupation of the territories since the Middle East war of 1967.

The president put his position this way: "Egypt and the United States share the goals of security for Israel, the end of the occupation, and achievement of Palestinian political rights."

Bush went on to say that a properly structured international conference could play a useful role at an appropriate time" in reaching those goals through negotiations.

It also showed Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a leader in the Labour Party that is the chief rival to Shamir's Likud Bloc, was Israel's most well-liked leader. Rabin was rated as doing a good or very good job by 63 per cent of those questioned, the newspaper said.

Other Israeli newspapers headlined Bush's remarks Monday in Washington saying he hoped to see an end Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mubarak has been pushing for a Mideast conference for years. A U.S. official said the Egyptian leader had the end of the year or early 1990 in mind.

"We believe there is a lot of ground that has to be covered before there could be a conference," the official told reporters at the White House. He answered their questions under rules that shielded his identity.

All U.S. administrations since 1967 have said Israel should yield land on the West Bank and Gaza in exchange for peace. But none has specified whether the United States would urge its ally to yield all the territory.

Police said the clashes overnight killed six people and wounded 18 in east and west Beirut before non-stop shelling that started Saturday dwindled into sporadic exchanges after daybreak.

The latest casualties raised the overall toll to 153 people killed and 499 wounded since March 8, when the current round of hostilities broke out between Gen. Michel Aoun's 20,000 troops and an alliance of Syrian and Druze fighters.

Meanwhile, Syrian soldiers allowed a convoy of four tanker trucks to cross from north Lebanon into the Falangist hinterland northeast of Beirut to provide a power station with fuel oil.

Mohammad Mawlawi, manager of the state-owned oil refinery in the northern town of Tripoli, said the power station would be provided with 1,000 tons of fuel oil in the next four days to "keep it running."

"A total power failure would be disastrous to the whole of Lebanon," Mawlawi said in a statement broadcast by the Voice of the Nation radio.

Washington has urged Israel and the PLO to take steps to ease tensions in the territories.

The supplies were allowed in

## Arabs forecast surge in protests

### 9 Palestinian youths wounded in 5 separate clashes with Israelis

#### OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies)

— Israeli troops shot and wounded nine Palestinian youths Tuesday, two of them seriously, in five separate clashes that erupted in the occupied West Bank, Arab news reports said.

The worst reported clash was in the remote village of Asira Al Shemaliya near Nablus where soldiers entered to conduct an early morning search-and-arrest raid.

The army confirmed the incident, saying five Arabs were injured there by live ammunition and rubber bullets. Other reports were being checked, the army said.

In another incident, Israeli police sealed off the main commercial boulevard of East Jerusalem and forced merchants to shut their shops after an Israeli bus was stoned there, witnesses said.

The violence came as Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir headed to the United States amid differences with the administration of President George Bush over how to proceed in Middle East peace efforts.

An Israeli public opinion poll gave Shamir a measure of backing on the eve of his meetings with U.S. leaders, showing he had gained in popularity over the past year.

Asked last month about how well Shamir was doing his job, 56 per cent of 1,100 Israeli men and women surveyed replied "good" or "very good," the Davar daily said.

Only 48 per cent gave these responses in June 1988, added the newspaper. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 per cent.

It also showed Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a leader in the Labour Party that is the chief rival to Shamir's Likud Bloc, was Israel's most well-liked leader.

Rabin was rated as doing a good or very good job by 63 per cent of those questioned, the newspaper said.

Three other youths reportedly suffered moderate gunshot wounds and fourth was injured by a rubber bullet, officials at Al Ittihad Hospital in Nablus said.

Israel Radio said soldiers entered the village early Tuesday to clear roadblocks and "restore order."

An army spokesman said troops were conducting an "intimidated operation," which usually means searching for and arresting suspected protesters. He said five Arabs were injured in an ensuing clash.

Four other youths were wounded.



Palestinians refuse to U.S. requests and vow to continue protests in the occupied territories.

In a front-page analysis, the Yedioh Ahronot daily said it pointed to a "deep controversy" developing between Israel and the United States.

A shamir aide interviewed by army radio said he did not expect the Israeli leader would bridge these and other policy differences during his talks in Washington Thursday.

"I don't think they will succeed in persuading us to stop the settlements," cabinet minister Roni Milo said, referring to the Jewish enclaves Israel has built in the disputed lands despite U.S. opposition.

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## Lebanese face 4th week of terror

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival gunners traded shellfire across Beirut before dawn Tuesday on the fourth day of non-stop bombardment of the city's residential districts.

A U.S. embassy official said two American officers assigned to the Lebanese Defence Ministry as part of a three-man technical assistance team were evacuated Monday, leaving only one in place.

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"This is the safest way, we will send one of us to buy food for the whole building everyday until a cease-fire is declared and accepted by both sides," Antoine Shehyak, a mechanical engineer, said by telephone.

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France sent a top-level envoy on a peace mission to Beirut Tuesday while 75 French entertainers and intellectuals requested Lebanese nationality to show solidarity with a country threatened by death.

Panayiotis Karfakis, the Greek captain of the ferryboat Larnaca Rose said the situation was "completely calm" at Jounieh, the main port serving the Falangist enclave.

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A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Jean-Francois Deniau, the vice president of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Com-

## Cyprus congratulates Arafat

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — President George Vassilios sent a letter congratulating Yasser Arafat on becoming the first president of the Palestinian state. "I should like to express the warmest congratulations of the people and the government of Cyprus and myself personally," Vassilios said in his letter to Arafat. "I wish you success in the difficult task ahead and in your struggle for vindication of the aspirations of the heroic Palestinian people for the establishment of their state," the letter said. The text was released by government officials. Arafat, the long-time chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was elected president of the PLO Central Committee at a meeting in Tunis Sunday. The PLO parliament, the Palestine National Council, proclaimed an independent state at a meeting in Algiers last November. The borders of the state remain undefined but would include the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## PLO welcomes Bush statements

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A senior Palestinian official welcomed the call made by U.S. President George Bush that Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip must end, but said it was insufficient.

"Words are not enough, they should be followed by clear stands explaining their meaning," said Farouk Kaddoumi, the newly designated foreign minister in the Palestinian government.

"Bush said an end of occupation, and this statement as we understand it means a total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," Kaddoumi said at a press conference while on a tour of Gulf Arab states.

After an hour-long meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Bush said: "Egypt and the United States share the goals of security for Israel, the end of the occupation and achievement of Palestinian rights."

But he did not spell out the extent of the Israeli withdrawal nor did he elaborate on the term Palestinian political rights. The PLO considers that to mean its right to an independent Palestinian state.

The statements by Bush were "a positive sign," said Kaddoumi, adding: "It is a development in the American political accent and the terminology regarding the Palestinian issue."

But, he repeated, "the actual and practical development has not taken place yet."

He recalled other signs stated in the past by American presidents, such as Jimmy Carter's call for a homeland for the Palestinians. "We in the PLO do not want to be optimistic nor pessimistic, as we are conducting a dialogue with the new American administration and we don't want to express an amateurish stand, because things are not clear yet," he added.

Kaddoumi stressed the PLO insisted on Israel withdrawal from all the occupied territories and reiterated PLO readiness to accept U.N. trusteeship of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for a transitional stage during which preparations would be made for convening an international peace conference under U.N. auspices.

"We insist on an international conference for peace in the Middle East with the presence of U.N. Security Council permanent members and parities concerned including the PLO," Kaddoumi said. To date, Israel has not accepted such a plan.

Kaddoumi Sunday was designated the PLO's foreign minister at a meeting of the Central Committee in Tunis. He has long acted in that capacity.

Kaddoumi said that the PLO, through the dialogue conducted by the United States with the PLO in Tunisia since December, has been seeking explanation of U.S. policy

## U.N. faces battle to save hungry in Sudan

By Francis Mlolwana  
Reuter

NAIROBI — The United Nations, saying it wants to prevent death on the scale of the Hiroshima bombing, has launched a massive relief operation to try to save millions of people threatened by famine in war-scarred southern Sudan.

But analysts in East Africa and even U.N. officials themselves acknowledge that "Operation Lifeline Sudan," which aims to send in more than 170,000 tonnes of food aid in the next four weeks, faces delicate and intricate problems.

"We have had a near miracle to get this far (but) there is a reasonable prospect for success," James Grant, special representative of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, told a news

conference Monday.

He was speaking after sending 20 trucks with 500 tonnes of food to southern Sudan, the first of a series of convoys that U.N. officials hope will ferry 25,000 tonnes of aid from Kenya alone before the end of this month.

In tandem with the Kenya relief operation, the United Nations — backed by several international charitable bodies — is hauling relief supplies by air, land and rail from several towns within Sudan and Uganda. Officials say they also hope to move food from Ethiopia.

U.N. officials say the food, mainly maize, will feed at least two million starving people whose farming activities have been disrupted by the six-year war.

More than 100,000 people could starve to death unless the

aid is rushed to them this month, they add.

"We are dealing with a disaster roughly equal to the disaster of Hiroshima," Grant said, referring to the U.S. atomic bombing of the Japanese city during World War II in which some 218,000 people were killed.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

"We keep on praying that the rains don't come too early as this would make roads impassable for the convoys," he added. "As the U.N. secretary-general said, this is a race against time."

Regional analysts said problems were compounded by deep-rooted suspicion between the Sudanese government and its rebel foes, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Both sides fear each will use this period of movement of relief aid to restock supplies and prepare for a new offensive," an African diplomat in Kenya told Reuters.

The United Nations has said its officials will monitor the movement and distribution of the aid to ensure the belligerents do not move military supplies.

During Operation Lifeline Sudan, launched after tortuous talks spearheaded by the United Nations and involving the SPLA and Khartoum, the rebels and the government agreed to cease hostilities for a month.

Both sides have been at pains to explain that this does not constitute a ceasefire, signalling that any perceived violation of the "month of tranquility" by either side could mark a resumption of the war.

The analysts said the SPLA,

the brutal war has killed tens of thousands of people and sent more than 400,000 others fleeing as refugees into neighbouring countries.

The SPLA, fighting to end what it considers domination of the Christian and animist south by the Muslim Arab north, has in the past attacked aircraft carrying relief supplies saying it suspected governments of troops of using them.

"Any slight suspicion (by either side) could mean the relief convoys could be subjected to attacks. This could spell real disaster as so many people's lives are dependent on this aid reaching the area now," an aid worker said.

The analysts said the SPLA, victorious in a series of battles for control of key garrison towns in the past two months, was in an uncompromising mood and had only agreed to transportation of relief supplies because of international pressure.

"They have been concerned at their image in the international community. They would not want to be seen to be preventing such a (relief) mission," a Western diplomat said.

Last year more than 250,000 people, most of them children, died in southern Sudan because of the war, drought and hunger before the international community stepped in with aid.

Operation Lifeline Sudan will cost an estimated \$1.32 million, but so far only \$77 million has been secured from international donors.

"We appeal to all people and the governments to help," Grant said, noting that further delay in donations would complicate the relief operation.

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Swedish fund condemns Israel tactics

STOCKHOLM (R) — A Swedish charity has accused Israeli troops of operating a shoot-to-kill policy against children taking part in the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. A report by Rada Barnen, the Swedish Save the Children Organisation, said: "Soldiers in their use of gunfire have deliberately aimed at children and young people." Furthermore, as the horrifying effects of the army's methods and gunfire have become clear and yet they still continue, one is bound to conclude that the continued killings are deliberate." Rada Barnen's Secretary-General Thomas Hammarberg said in a statement accompanying the report that the actions of the Israeli authorities violated fundamental human rights in an unacceptable way. The report was compiled by a two-man team who visited Israel and the occupied territories last year.

#### Khalaf says Bush more realistic

BAGHDAD (R) — A Palestinian leader said in remarks published Tuesday that the new U.S. administration under President George Bush was more objective and realistic towards the Middle East crisis than any previous administration. "We in the Palestinian leadership believe that President Bush's administration is the first administration to interact with a new status quo in the Middle East more objectively than any previous one," Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Ayad, told the Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra. Khalaf is Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's deputy in the PLO's mainstream Fatah group. "The recent dialogue between the United States and the PLO was a beginning for an American nationalism, which is a good trend that we encourage." If the Bush administration continues this trend it can become a basic element in the Middle East struggle and will enable it to present realistic solutions," Khalaf said.

#### Argentina wants to buy Kfir

TEL AVIV (R) — Argentina is seeking to buy combat-tested Israeli C. II Kfir fighter planes despite a U.S. ban on an identical sale three years ago, Israeli Defence Ministry sources said Tuesday. Visiting Argentine Defence Minister Horacio Jauregui told Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin Monday he wanted to buy the single-seat fighters, the sources said. The Kfir, which can reach speeds of March 2.5 — two-and-a-half times the speed of sound — is equipped with American General Electric J-79 engines. Israel needed U.S. agreement to sell military equipment containing U.S. components and Washington, only four years after the Falklands war between Argentina and Britain, refused its permission. There was no immediate indication if the United States would repeat its ban.

#### Philippines denies spy report

ABU DHABI (AP) — The Philippines ambassador Monday denied a claim by a rebel Filipino Muslim leader that thousands of Filipinos workers in Arab countries are spying for Israel. The envoy to the UAE, Isabelle J. Astrauillo, issued a statement saying he "categorically denied" the charge which he said was "another malicious propaganda ploy of the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) to discredit the Philippines government." Nur Misuari, the MNLF leader, had "no factual basis to what he said," the ambassador's statement added. Misuari, who has led a struggle for independence from Manila of the Muslim-dominated southern Mindanao region for almost two decades, claimed in an interview that Mossad, Israel's secret service, "exploited the general Arab acceptance of the Filipino workforce to recruit them as agents." The interview was published Sunday in the Sharjah-based newspaper Al Khaleej. Misuari said that as many as 10,000 Filipino workers were involved in spying, mainly in the Arab states.

#### Israel to start heavy water talks

OSLO (R) — Norway said Tuesday that Israel had agreed to reopen talks over a consignment of heavy water — which can be used to make atomic bombs — sold to Israel in a secret deal 30 years ago. Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, now visiting occupied Jerusalem, discussed the long-running dispute with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens Monday, a ministry spokeswoman said. "Israel has now said it is willing to start a new round of negotiations if this is requested by Norway," she said. Oslo sold Israel 20 tonnes of heavy water, used in the manufacture of plutonium, in 1959 and has repeatedly demanded the right to inspect it. Media reports since 1982 have charged that Israel used it to make atomic bombs. Israel refuses to confirm or deny whether it possesses nuclear weapons. Norway's parliament rejected a compromise solution reached by negotiators from the two countries last summer and told the minority labour government to continue demanding inspection. Stoltenberg has earlier said that Norway might demand the water be returned if Israel refused inspection. According to the terms of the 1959 deal, Norway has the right to inspect the water or recall it. Norway has exported heavy water, also known as deuterium oxide, to 35 countries since it became a major producer in the 1950s. Oslo insists that it should be used for peaceful purposes only and recently banned further exports after a series of embarrassing allegations that consignments had gone astray.

#### Algerian reactor inaugurated

ALGIERS (R) — President Chadli Benjedid inaugurated Algeria's first nuclear reactor Monday, the official APS news agency announced. It said the reactor called Nur (Light), built with the help of Argentina, would be used only for technical and scientific training and other peaceful purposes in the area of nuclear physics. The APS report gave no further details. The Arab world has shown little interest in nuclear energy as the majority of countries have sufficient oil and gas. The Israeli air force destroyed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981, saying it planned to develop nuclear weapons. Egypt has shown interest in building a nuclear power plant on its Mediterranean coast but plans have been postponed several times.



The hustle and bustle of Egypt's souk

## Egyptian secret worth more than diamonds

By Jeffrey Bartholet  
Reuter

CAIRO — "I will explain to you now a secret of Egypt worth more than diamonds," said Ali Omran Alai, whispering across a small room of red cushions, low ceilings, and shelves stained with frankincense, rose and jasmine.

Like a small wizard pouring out a potion, he showed some of Cairo's other perfumers their customers by diluting their product with vegetable oil.

The secrets and traditions of Egypt's ancient alleys are being corrupted or forgotten as the demands of the modern age clash with the accepted wisdom of the old.

In Cairo's famous bazaars, car horns compete with braying donkeys and young hustlers selling cheap wares steal business from shopkeepers too heavy with years to stir from their naps.

Egyptians have used perfume since Pharaonic times but some of the new perfumers are well-versed in the relative values of corn and jasmine oils. Business is profitable.

"About 50 years ago, there were only about five or six shops selling perfume," said Ali, whose family business dates to the early years of this century.

In the area of the famous Khan Al Khalili bazaar of Cairo's old city, scores of shops have sprung up selling oils pressed from Egyptian flowers and imported from Africa and Asia.

"Now, many shops sell perfumes that just have no meaning. Only a few good merchants sell pure essences to the customer," said Ali.

Voces of the bustling crowd can be heard in Ali's second-

floor office overlooking a narrow alley of perfume and fabric sellers.

His office, lined with etched bottles of concentrated oil extracts, is filled with aromas from as far away as South Africa and India.

Down the alley and across a four-lane road jammed with traffic and clouded with exhaust fumes, the cobblestones of Al Ghorriya street are now paved over.

Motorcycles twist through the crowd, past piles of plastic sandals and glistening black olives and a woman swinging a brass bowl of burning incense. Dried porcupines are nailed outside a spice shop near a clothes store where polyester dresses hang in the breeze.

In early spring, imported tin-signs declare "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

Spice sellers, standing behind bags of fragrant seeds, powders and roots, still sell secret concoctions to cure everything from headaches to unrequited love.

Changing fashions have hurt the business of Ahmad Mostapha Hassan, 58, one of two tarboosh-makers left on Ghorriya street and one of only few left in the city.

"In every neighbourhood, there used to be a couple of tarboosh-makers," he said, sitting next to a large brass furnace used to mold the distinctive red hats.

"The police and the army used to wear the tarboosh, but since the revolution, the style has changed. Now they wear a cap or beret."

Hassan said he now sells about 10 tarbooses every day — as souvenirs to tourists and to Islamic scholars who still wear the traditional red hat under a wrapped white scarf.

"Now, many shops sell perfumes that just have no meaning. Only a few good merchants sell pure essences to the customer," said Ali.

Voces of the bustling crowd

## Meagre supplies cause hardship in Kabul

KABUL (R) — Bread queues have eased but life for Kabul's war-weary population is still a daily search for meagre food supplies priced beyond the reach of the poor.

With the two main roads supplying Kabul closed, a constant Soviet airlift brings food and other essentials to the Afghan capital and enables the government to feed soldiers fighting rebels.

But what the airlift brings is less than half the 600 tonnes of flour Kabul needs each day, and prices are rocketing in a country devastated by almost 10 years of civil war.

The flour is so precious that soldiers guard the bakeries.

In this beleaguered city, nearly three-quarters of the children are malnourished, many of them doomed to an early death.

Large areas of rural Afghanistan are either held by the rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government or have been devastated by the war, making it difficult to produce farm or meat products.

"The situation is getting worse every day and it is now almost impossible to buy anything. We can only afford bread," a middle-aged woman dressed Western-style told Reuters. She shouted angrily as other shoppers looked on.

"I have 10 children and two or three of them take turns, in front of bakeries to buy bread," said Shirin Aga, a school teacher carrying a sack of potatoes which he has to make last for a month.

"Sometimes, I queue from nine

o'clock till midday and the bakery suddenly runs out of bread and I have to come back in the afternoon to wait for bread again."

"I have a family of seven and need to get 15 loaves of bread. But I would be lucky if I got 10," said Jan Ali, wearing a huge Afghan turban and baggy trousers.

Asked how often people ate meat, Jan Ali said: "Once a year," drawing laughter from other Afghans standing in display shabby showrooms.

### Government control

The government has maintained a monopoly on the distribution of flour and sugar. A loaf of bread can be bought for six cents at subsidised prices but often there is no sugar at all, even on the black market.

To make sure people get enough bread, the government doles out flour to bakeries where two or three soldiers stand guard — both to keep public order and to ensure the bakers don't hoard supplies.

The government has introduced stringent anti-hoarding laws to punish unscrupulous traders or customers looking for quick profits.

"Some of the flour the government gave to the bakeries ended up on the black market. So soldiers are there to make sure that all the flour is used for bread on the spot," a government official said.

### Kabul's children

Officials say 70 per cent of Kabul's children are malnourished and infant mortality is said to be the highest in the world.



Mujahideen rebels ready for an assault

### Min./max. temp.

Amman ..... 10°/25°  
Aqaba ..... 17°/32°  
Deserts ..... 8°/28°  
Jordan Valley ..... 15°/30°

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

#### AMMAN:

Dr. Ranez Al Mizzi ..... 894785

Dr. Salah Al Maad ..... 699128

Dr. Othman Al Muaf ..... 774261

Dr. Zain Zaghlool ..... 672561

Fins pharmacy ..... 661612

Firdous pharmacy ..... 778336

Al Asmaa pharmacy ..... 637362

Al Salam pharmacy ..... 623672

Al Sabea ..... 636730

Al Sharqia ..... 644345

Al Shams ..... 637660

IRBD:

Dr. Lawrence Badr ..... (—)

Al Sharqia pharmacy ..... (962)385

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will continue warm and dry and winds will be southerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### ZARQA:

Dr. Tareq Hijawi ..... (—)

Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 963417



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جريدة الأردنية المستقلة للطباعة والنشر والتوزيع في الأردن

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

### Tough time Mr. Shamir

SO it came to pass that President George Bush has declared in no uncertain terms during his talks with President Hosni Mubarak that Israel must withdraw from the occupied territories, recognise the political rights of the Palestinian people and prepare itself for an international peace conference that may have to be convened after thorough preparations. Not since the days of former President Dwight Eisenhower did the Middle East hear such clarity and boldness in American thought regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict. President George Bush and his top team of advisers, like Secretary of State James Baker, deserve to be commended for spelling out American conception of peace in the Middle East in the clearest possible terms for all parties to comprehend and take judicial notice of its contents. For the forces of peace in the Middle East, whether on the Arab side or on the Israeli side, the recent American pronouncement on conditions for a settlement will indeed heighten expectations in the region for a real breakthrough in the stalled peace process.

No less important is the timing of such elucidation of American stance on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was en route to Washington to meet President Bush and his senior aides when news flashes carried Bush's dramatic pronouncements on peace in the Middle East. From the looks of it, Shamir is heading for a real showdown this time in Washington and the prospects are high that he will emerge from his first encounter with the U.S. president with ruffled feathers. Mr. Shamir has been hitherto spoilt beyond all reasonable bounds by earlier treatments that he had been accorded on previous missions to America. He had always got away with what he wanted and had never found some one tall enough to stand up to him. It appears that time has arrived to call a spade a spade in the first official encounter between President Bush and Shamir. Such positive developments augur very well for the peace process in the Middle East. Even Israel stands to profit from this boldness in the American position regarding its conflict with its Arab neighbours including the PLO. Taking a firm stand with one's allies and friends can often do them immeasurable good in the long run. Israeli leaders, like Shamir and Sharon, have demonstrated time and again that they cannot see beyond their noses. It is the duty of the friends of Israel to show them the way to see beyond their noses by talking to them straight and eyeball to eyeball. That is how the forces of peace see President George Bush doing with visiting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. President Bush might not succeed in the first round but surely he will eventually succeed with perseverance and when President Bush does succeed as is expected, he will go down in history as the American chief executive who triumphed when all others have failed.

### JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THE Jordanian Arabic dailies Tuesday tackled the King's visit to Baghdad on Monday and his talks with President Saddam Hussein on Arab affairs in general and Iraqi-Jordanian relations in particular. Al Ra'i daily said that the talks were part of the ongoing process of consultations and coordination between the leadership of both countries over important issues and on means of unifying the Arab countries stand vis-a-vis challenges at this critical stage of their history. The Palestine question was at the top of the agenda because King Hussein keen on rallying all Arabs towards backing the Palestinian people and for the sake of attaining a just and durable peace, the paper noted. It said that for Jordan, the Palestine question is at the top of all priorities not only in view of its importance to the Arabs but also in the light of Israel's intransigence and its escalation of atrocities against the Palestinian people. The Jordanian stand, the paper noted, was expressed in the King's cable to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in which he re-emphasised a fact that Jordan and its people stand behind the Palestinians and their legitimate representative in the quest for attaining peace based on justice.

A columnist in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i Tuesday tackles the visit to Washington by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir who he says has gone to the American capital backed by a unified stand from his people and government. Tareq Masa'weh says that Shamir is most probably carrying to Washington a new Israeli version for a settlement of the Arab, Israeli conflict, supported not only by the two main political parties in Israel but also by the Israeli public. In all its wars with the Arabs, Israel was united behind its government whatever its form and regardless of its political orientation, and now in the fight for a settlement. The Israelis are unified and together are carrying a blueprint for a settlement of the Arab Israeli dispute, the writer notes. He says the Arab Nation would like to see a united Arab stand to counter the Israeli position and one that can be presented with confidence and from a position of strength to the American administration in Washington.

Al Dostour daily said that the King's talks in Baghdad served as a new link in the long chain of inter-Arab consultations over matters of national interest. The meetings in Baghdad it said manifest a true picture of cooperation among leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council countries in dealing with common issues and working towards a brighter future for the Arab Nation. The King's visit to Baghdad is the first since the proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council and assumes importance in view of the range of topics that were discussed, the paper noted. It said that the two leaders directed their attention towards the Palestine issue and the ongoing efforts to find a lasting peace in the Middle East. The Baghdad talks, the paper added, were essential to unify the Arab countries stand in view of the coming developments on the political scene and to bolster solidarity among Arab states in the face of all eventualities.

By Martin Woollacott

TEHRAN IN 1978 was the capital of a kingdom whose rulers had parted company from reality. The dwindling supporters of the Shah included hardliners who wanted to hang demonstrators on street corners, moderates who wanted to open up the regime to previously banned political movements, liberals who wanted the monarch to constitutionally limit his powers. But the vast majority of Iranians sensed that the Shah and his system were doomed and that the only remaining question was the manner of his going.

A not dissimilar atmosphere prevails in Iran today. As then, the supporters of the regime are divided into hardliners, moderates, liberals, and like quarrelsome troops and factions. As then, their solutions are, or are becoming, irrelevant. As then, the majority of Iranians are beginning to lose their belief in the system's permanence, if not yet — as was the case in 1978 — their fear of it. And, as then, the cause is that the regime has seriously mismanaged its affairs over a long period and its increasingly incapable of responding to real problems.

Only a few years ago it could

be said that no government in modern Iranian history had been as strong or as securely based as that of Ayatollah Khomeini. It was a government that had come to power as a result of a revolution in which the people at large had participated, and which repudiated, as they did, the break-neck Westernisation that the Shah had permitted. It was a government that, with its extraordinary defiance of both superpowers, had written a definitive and psychologically satisfying end to a century in which Iran had been bullied in turn by Britain, Russia, and the United States. It was a government which, while divided on social and economic policy, had nevertheless captured the loyalty of both peasantry and working class by its emphasis on their difficulties and their needs.

The war with Iraq had tapped vast reserves of bravery and sacrifice in the nation, and of effort and innovation in the administration. The achievement of fielding huge armies against Iraq while keeping the domestic economy functioning effectively was enormous.

But the Khomeini government from the start had one central fault which has over time vitiated its considerable strengths. The politics of the regime centre on

the question of whether any particular policy or set of policies are acceptable in Islamic terms, and this has meant in practice that politicians pursuing moderate or compromise policies have nearly always been outbid by extremists. This is not to identify particular groups or leaders who are "moderates" on all issues, since that is not the case, but simply to observe that in such a polity, the "moderate" line is always vulnerable. Since sane policies inevitably involve some recognition of realities, internal and external, which are repugnant to Islam as defined by the Ayatollah, it has always been possible to destroy a politician simply by putting him into a position of responsibility and then waiting until the pressure for success leads him to embrace a policy that can be seized on as un-Islamic. This has led to do with the role and personality of Khomeini than is often thought. The system itself tends to the extreme, and, indeed, moderates have only prospered when Khomeini has chosen to protect them.

Political after politician has fallen into the "moderation" trap, from Bazargan at the very beginning to the latest victim, Ayatollah Hussein-Ali Mon-

tazeri, who "resigned" as Khomeini's successor last week. Montazeri's resignation completes the collapse of what had been a half-sensible package of post-war policies. After the ceasefire last July, the government naturally made economic reconstruction the priority. Shortages of essential goods, power cuts, black market crookery, unemployment — all these, if perhaps unavoidable toward the end of a debilitating war, nevertheless constituted a recipe for political disaster as demobilised soldiers returned to the cities in vast numbers.

Montazeri opposed the executions on moral but also on practical grounds. The regime was making enemies, he argued in his letter to Khomeini, by executing people whose offences were minor and whose families, many of them hitherto staunch supporters of the government, would now be alienated.

Montazeri's most recent offence was to refuse to endorse Khomeini's death sentence on Salman Rushdie. Undoubtedly his opposition was once again both moral and practical, for it could be easily seen that the Rushdie sentence would damage the whole post-war strategy. The laboriously achieved political liberalisation was also envisaged, both as a condition for the first two policies and as a means of re-engaging the interest and allegiance of disillusioned Ira-

mians. Already in the bargaining over these policies between clerical factions, contradictory elements had been brought in. Notably, the extremists only agreed to the liberalisation if the purge of opponents already taking place in the last months of the war were to be completed. Montazeri's opposition to the executions of these opponents is one of the reasons that he has now been deposed.

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And there may be one more blow coming that could have a shattering effect, if the Lockerbie investigations lead to the conclusion that some element within the government was responsible for the Pan-Am bomb.

In any case, the bankruptcy of the regime inevitably recalls the similar nullity of the Shah's government in its last months. Perhaps there is some way that the Iranian clerical regime can rebuild the strength it once had and which it needs if it is to have any chance of surviving the Ayatollah's death. But it is hard to see what it is — The Guardian.

## The passing of Montazeri and reality

plexity of events in the region, "we can not talk about (the status of the Arab Nation) in a one year period of time. All events are intertwined."

Professor of political science at the Sorbonne in Paris, Ghassan Salameh was also less optimistic about the state of the nation. On Arab cooperation groups, Salameh says: "I do not see any serious ground on which to build councils (just) on economic grounds."

Three prominent participants in the ATF deliberations shared their ideas and what they see as possible solutions to the Arab World's predicament. They discussed the report submitted to the ATF on the status of the Arab Nation in 1988 and spoke about Arab unity from a different perspective and about the two main topics of the ATF meetings: Democratisation and political pluralism.

The report, compiled by the ATF and the Cairo-based Centre for Political and Strategic Studies at Al Ahram newspaper, is mainly an overview of Arab achievements in 1988. The report describes the situation in the Arab World from 1975-1988.

Those 12 years are marked by the outbreak of civil wars in Lebanon and the Sudan, the eruption of the Gulf war, the escalation of the conflict between Morocco and Algiers and saw Egypt being shunned by the Arab World for its separate peace treaty with Israel, according to the report.

The report goes on to highlight the Arab World accomplishments in 1988: the escalation of the intifada in the occupied Arab territories, the proclamation of a Palestinian state, the start of the U.S.-PLO dialogue, the victory of Iraq in the Gulf war, the return of Egypt to the Arab fold, Jordan's severing of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, Moroccan-Algerian reconciliation, the improvement of relations between Libya and Chad, and between Sudan and Somalia, the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and the Arab Maghreb Union, the convening of an Arab summit in support of the intifada and the beginnings of "democratisation" in some Arab countries.

**Simmering problems**

The report refers briefly to the simmering problems in the region such as the civil wars in both Lebanon and Sudan, the continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands, the deteriorating economic situation in the Arab World and the issue of human rights.

In concluding their report, the authors contend that the development in 1988 were significant in reversing the negative trends that persisted in the Arab region for the past decade.

The participants interviewed by the Jordan Times were less optimistic.

University of Kuwait professor of philosophy Ahmed Al Rabe considers the report to be descriptive rather than analytical. He thinks it praises Arab summits as successful.

To Al Rabe, the success of Arab summits does not depend merely on them being convened, but on the "implementation of their resolutions."

He believes that the report was researched and written from a Western perspective.

"We are talking about 23 Arab countries with Israel in their midst, the Iran-Iraq war, oil prices and lack of development. Our situation differs from other countries... if in the West (the situation) is clear, ours is very difficult."

He thinks that due to the com-

plexity of events in the region, "we can not talk about (the status of the Arab Nation) in a one year period of time. All events are intertwined."

For Arab unity to filter down to the people in the Arab World, professor Salameh thinks it necessary to allow people to move freely between the Arab countries, to communicate on all issues, to establish solidarity between the poor and rich strata of societies and to take common stands on the major issues affecting the future of the region, notably the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iraq-Iran conflict and the Lebanese war.

We are not saying that we should combine our forces to strike at the Israelis, but at least to defend ourselves," he said, citing the Israeli bombing of the Iraqi nuclear plant and the Pales-

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He sees the cooperation groups as important not only for economic reasons, but also for international relations. "The cooperation councils are mainly political."

"It is important to continue our contacts in order to remove any misunderstanding which existed in the early days and has always (existed); and to create confidence between the heads of states, making agreements easier to reach."

It was an agreement on "unity of action," Riyadh predicts that the strength of the Arab World combined would be "at least three or four times the strength of the Israel."

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## A tribute to Indira Gandhi

A London ceremony honoured the late Indian prime minister, Indira Gandhi, during the birth centenary celebrations commemorating her father, Jawaharlal Nehru. The occasion was the unveiling of her sculpture at India House.

By Patricia Jellicoe

LONDON — It was on this day, January 30 in 1948, that Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated, but four decades on the day was marked in London with the unveiling of a sculpture of Indira Gandhi by Krishna Rasgotra, the Indian high commissioner in Britain since autumn 1988.

Created by the Kerala-born Indian sculptor, K.S. Radhakrishnan, 32, the sculpture was unveiled in the company of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and distinguished friends of India at India House. Though the High Commissioner remarked that with her vital and vivid personality, "one cannot imagine Indira Gandhi as a statue!" the bust gives a feeling of the strength that the former prime minister and

stateswoman no doubt possessed.

Radhakrishnan won a national cultural scholarship given by the Indian Ministry of Education to work under the well-known sculptor Sarbari Roy Chowdhury, and was given the award for sculpture at the annual exhibition of the Birla Akademi of Arts and Culture, Calcutta, followed by the award of a research grant fellowship from the Lalit Kala Akademi to work at Garhi Studios, New Delhi. He has participated in many exhibitions and his commissions, both public and private, include the National Gallery of Modern Art and the Lalit Kala Akademi and Hidco in New Delhi, and Bharat Bhawan in Bhopal.

As Rasgotra said, India House, designed by Sir Herbert Baker

using skilled Indian workmen, was a fitting place for the sculpture. For years London was the second home for the Nehru family.

Rasgotra said it would no doubt have given Mrs. Gandhi much pleasure to have the British prime minister unveil her sculptured bust. He spoke of her humanity and compassion for all while maintaining a firm leadership.

Her wish was to unite India "not by the sword but by understanding," and he quoted her saying in 1983: "Freedom is basically a spiritual value; the function of politics is to make it a living fact. To me that is the only political goal worth pursuing." He continued by recalling that it was said she was the only man in her cabinet. He felt that God is usually on the side of women, "especially if they are prime ministers!"

In her reply, Mrs. Thatcher, after thanking the sculptor and looking forward to many more occasions during this centenary year of Pandit Nehru's birth, ac-

cused the High Commissioner of "having stolen her best line!" But — of Mrs. Gandhi, "the only man in her cabinet," — she said with a smile that it was an outrageous remark. An English writer and poet who loved India, sharing his love with many in Britain, warned us, we should remember, that "the female of the species is more deadly than the male!"

Mrs. Thatcher then turned to her memories of Indira Gandhi and her first visit to India in 1973, saying how deeply she admired her as a stateswoman and valued her as a friend. They both shared the paradox, to which the high commissioner had referred, that though so warmly human, Mrs. Gandhi could be firm and fearless. Both she and Indira Gandhi understood and felt the loneliness of a prime minister.

In Mrs. Thatcher's view, India would not be what it is today without the firm structure built up in so many fields — in trade, the sciences and others — during Mrs. Gandhi's 16 years as prime minister.

Speaking of the tragedy of losing people to terrorists and assassins, Mrs. Thatcher said that there must be an unceasing fight against terrorism of any kind — those who kill and those who supply the killers. Mrs. Gandhi had cabled her after the Brighton bombing and was herself to die shortly afterwards.

Ms. Daphne Park, principal of Somerville College, Oxford, where both prime ministers had been undergraduates and of which both were honorary fellows, spoke of the many distinguished undergraduates Somerville has had from India, and of the Somerville Trust which enables others to do further research in India while helping those from India while they are at Somerville.

Dr. Kathleen Raine, the poet, gave her thoughts on the "eternal strength of the spirit," quoting poets and philosophers through the centuries. She had not known Indira Gandhi, she said, but had been immensely moved to be invited to meet in India others of identical interests, to discuss and share in the search for the values of the spirit — Academic File

of the spirit

## OPEC seems set to raise oil output

VIENNA (R) — OPEC, benefitting from sharply higher world oil prices, seems set to raise production when the group holds its next full meeting in Vienna June 5, oil analysts and industry observers say.

"We feel they will raise quotas," said Jeremy Hudson, oil analyst at Shearson Lehman Hutton in London.

Analysts were also optimistic about the immediate price outlook: "I can't see a big move down," said Hudson.

"Brent (Britain's benchmark and the most widely trade crude) could fall to a low of \$17.50 a barrel in the second quarter (when demand traditionally slackens after the winter)," he noted.

Last November the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed an output ceiling for all 13 members of 18.5 million barrels per day (b/d) for the first six months of this year, ending a period of huge oversupply and slumping prices.

Prices have soared some 50 per cent since OPEC reined in over-production and several non-OPEC producers have pledged to help by cutting exports in the second quarter of this year.

Last week Brent for June delivery traded above \$19 in the European market against lows of \$12 in late 1988.

On Thursday OPEC ended a ministerial monitoring committee

meeting to review the performance of the world oil market, which Hudson described as "very, very encouraging."

Before the talks Kuwait Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah proposed OPEC raise the ceiling to 20 million b/d in the second half of 1989 and that Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) should have higher quotas than other members.

"The comments by the Kuwaiti minister did not damage the balance of the meeting, this is encouraging," Hudson said.

Both Gulf Arab OPEC members are seen by industry sources as overproducing. Both have said their quotas are unfairly low.

OPEC sources said Sheikh Ali was proposing that Kuwait and the UAE should share some 700,000 b/d with the remaining 800,000 b/d divided up amongst the other 11 OPEC members.

After the meeting, Sheikh Ali denied his proposal was even a suggestion, terming it instead a flexible opinion.

Hudson said statements by the Iran's oil minister, Gholamreza Aqazadeh, also suggested that an output ceiling increase was on the

cards. "The remarks by the Iranian minister point to a stronger likelihood of a quota increase," he said.

Traditionally, Iran has favoured higher prices, in contrast to other OPEC members such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

But Aqazadeh Thursday said the \$18 a barrel OPEC target price was likely to continue for the rest of this year.

"Iran is making it plain that it doesn't want to see prices running up strongly," Hudson said.

Since oil prices have climbed substantially so far this year in response to healthy demand, and since demand growth is expected to continue, the implication is that Iran is looking to a higher output ceiling to maximise revenues, analysts said.

Geoff Pyne, oil analyst at stockbrokers UBS-Phillips and Drew, also felt a quota increase is likely in June. "OPEC has a problem if it does not raise quotas, as without an increase, there may be a gap between quotas and demand for OPEC oil."

The key question is whether any increase in the ceiling is divided up proportionately or whether some members should receive more than others as the Kuwaiti minister has proposed.

Some analysts believe there is a good case for granting the UAE a

proportionately higher increase in order to solve its persistent problem of overproduction. The UAE is estimated to have pumped 1.45 million b/d in February, above its quota of 988,000 b/d. Last June, it said its quota should be 1.5 million.

Indonesian Oil Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita said Friday: "Ideally (any quota increase) should be proportionate, but some countries have problems and we have the obligation to listen... we must solve the entire problem if we want a solid ground for OPEC in years to come."

Pyne said he saw a problem for some countries, such as Algeria and Indonesia, if quotas were raised as they might not have the production capacity to fulfil them, adding, "at the end of the day (any increase) will be pro rata."

Ginanjar denied Indonesia had production problems, saying its capacity was 1.65 to 1.7 million b/d, 300-400,000 b/d above current output. Indonesia has a quota of 1.24 million b/d.

Steve Turner, oil analyst at stockbrokers Smith New Court, thought a deal on quota increases was likely in June. "I wouldn't see a squabble on quotas causing a major breakdown."

The June talks are due to set second-half quotas for OPEC.

## Customs officials plan unified system for ACC countries

CAIRO (Petra) — Customs officials from the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries will shortly embark on detailed studies to work out a unified customs system for the four ACC members, according to Fathi Salameh under-secretary of the Egyptian ministry of finance and customs.

Salameh said that a unified system for Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and North Yemen would streamline matters and issues pertaining

to customs that would serve the interests of each of the four countries.

Already Egypt maintains customs agreements with a number of Arab countries designed to promote trade, Salameh noted.

Apart from the ACC cooperation in this respect, Egypt has concluded customs agreements with Morocco and plans to conclude a similar one with Tunisia later this month.

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1989

The projected exhibition, the source added, would no doubt orient the Jordanian public on Egyptian national products and boost trade.

The idea of setting up the exhibition resulted from the excellent results of the first Egyptian trade fair which is being held in Amman at the moment, the source noted.

He said that the Jordanian public has displayed real interest in the Egyptian goods.

## Chinese congress ends with call for controls, hard work and thrift

BELING (Agencies) — China's legislature ended its annual session Tuesday with a call for the government to tighten controls over the economy and for the people to exercise thrift and work hard.

The 2,700 members of the National People's Congress (NPC) also endorsed a state-of-the-nation report by Premier Li Peng, and echoed its themes of the need for economic and social stability.

Li opened the 16-day session with a somber report on widespread economic chaos caused by rising inflation and breakneck growth. He called for at least two years of austerity and restoration of government controls over some aspects of the economy.

The NPC approved a 1989 budget giving priority to education and agriculture and outlining spending of 293.08 billion yuan (\$77.2 billion), with a deficit of 7.4 billion yuan (\$2 billion). It passed two major bills — one giving citizens limited rights to sue the government and a second delineating the powers of the Communist Party-dominated NPC.

One other law giving the special economic zone of Shenzhen, near Hong Kong, the power to make its own laws passed after a rare show of opposition.

There were 274 opposing votes

and 805 abstentions. Huang Xinxin, a delegate from the mainland representing Taiwan, said the NPC was usurping the powers of the province and that other cities also would demand autonomy in lawmaking. The chair ignored demands from the floor for a recount.

The resolution on Li's report said the government should strengthen macro-management and suppress over-eagerness for fast results in economic development. It called for adherence to such ideals as socialist morality, patriotism, collectivism, thrift and hard work.

The NPC's tone this year differed substantially from the 1988 session, when the legislators sought bold new moves away from rigid central planning and the introduction of reforms that would make the economy more responsive to market forces.

In the past year, however, the nation has been hit by inflation now around 36 per cent, a 40 per cent increase in the money supply and an industrial growth rate of near 20 per cent that has caused severe shortages of energy and raw materials.

The deputies said Li's assessment of errors and problems was made in an honest and factual way, and urged the government to attach importance to NPC suggestions on such issues as infla-

tion, family planning, crime and corruption.

All major policy decisions in China are made by the Communist Party Politburo and the State Council, or cabinet, and the NPC does little but give perfunctory approval of laws.

However, in the past few years, it also has tried to foster an image of being a sounding board for government policies.

The body made 120 changes to Li's work report, mostly minor. It added that the State Council should take the lead in eliminating extravagance and waste, and said feasibility studies should be carried out before major policies are made so as to make decision-making more democratic.

The two main laws passed with only minor opposition.

The first law, to go into effect in October next year, gives citizens the right to go to court over what they believe are abuses of the law, but not to challenge the laws themselves.

Premier Li Peng defended his government Monday in the face of widespread discontent over rising prices but indicated no individual would be called to account for past mistakes.

Li said China had made great progress over the last decade but had run into problems by raising prices too quickly last year.

"Without the support of the people, our drive to improve the economic environment and rectify the economic order, or even in the larger sense our policy of reform and opening to the outside world, will not succeed," Li commented.

The agriculture ministry may have known about the beef scandal for weeks without making it public, the paper said.

The emirate news agency WAM issued an official

announcement about the import ban Monday, the reports said.

Danish exporters have been accused before of lacing beef with pork. They were later absolved after a chemical analysis failed to distinguish between pig meat and a vegetable protein additive in the beef product.

Poul Sand slaughterhouse,

which controls 95 per cent of Danish meat exports, denied any wrongdoing, Politiken said.

One of the batches in which tests indicated the presence of pork came from the food coop Dat-Schaub.

"We have had four men working on the case all weekend. We don't believe for a minute that any of our suppliers would dream of mixing pig meat in the product (ground beef) in order to make a profit. Everyone knows the consequences and it would be foolish," director Torben Melgaard Dat-Schaub was quoted as saying in the Berlingske Tidende newspaper.

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## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Michigan win U.S. college title

SEATTLE (R) — Rumeal Robinson hit a pair of free throws with three seconds left in overtime to give Michigan the U.S. Collegiate Men's Basketball championship with a dramatic 80-79 win over Seton Hall Monday. It was the first National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Basketball title for the Michigan Wolverines. The Seton Hall Pirates were also going for their first title. "I am the happiest man alive right now," said Michigan interim coach Steve Fisher, who took over coaching duties just before the tournament began. "Rumeal is such a gutsy kid," he said of Robinson's poise at the foul line with Michigan down 79-78.

### Czech Davis Cup hopes drop with Mecir

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovakia's Davis Cup hopes against West Germany waned Monday after their number one Miloslav Mecir was taken to hospital straight from the practice court suffering from back pains. His appearance for Czechoslovakia in their quarter-final against West Germany Friday now seems unlikely, medical sources said after studying X-rays of Mecir's back. Mecir, 1988 Olympic champion and winner of the Indian Wells event in California last month, had to pull out at the start of the international players championship in Key Biscayne because of a recurring back injury. He began practising in Prague Monday morning after two painless days. But after about an hour of backhand rallies with team-mate Marian Vajda he suddenly dropped his racket and left the court stooping with pain, eyewitnesses said.

### Chess prodigy explains defection

NEW YORK (AP) — Soviet chess prodigy Gata Kamsky said Monday that he and his father chose to defect to the United States because Soviet chess officials had blocked his career for the last three years. "I decided to leave the Soviet Union because I can't play in chess tournaments, so I can't grow in chess. Here I can play in all the tournaments every year," the 14-year-old Kamsky, speaking in English, said at a crowded news conference at the Marshall Chess Club. His father, Rustam Kamsky, reading from a prepared statement in faltering English, said: "Now we get the freedom. My son can play in different cities in all the world. Please help my wife." Kamsky said his wife, Bella, who is Gata's stepmother and remains in Leningrad, knew in advance of their decision to request asylum in the United States when they came here for a chess tournament three weeks ago. "Yes, they discussed it, all together as a family, and they jointly came to this decision that they would stay here," said Lev Albert, a grandmaster who defected from the Soviet Union in 1979 and translated for the Kamskys. Rustam Kamsky said discrimination against the family because they were ethnic Crimean Tatars also had some bearing on their decision.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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### PICK YOUR DEMISE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH	4 ♠ 7 4 3
V	Q 7
W	Q A Q K
EAST	4 ♠ K Q 6 4
WEST	4 ♠ 5 6 2
V	5 4 5
W	5 2 5 4 2
EAST	5 0 1 8 7 6
SOUTH	4 ♠ A 8 3
V	10 9 5 2
W	A K Q J 10
EAST	10 9 2
SOUTH	9 3
V	4 7

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 NT	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Two of 4

There's a saying in the Old Country: "If you drink the water you die, and if you don't drink the water you die." Here's a hand that bears out the wisdom of that sage.

North had his bidding boots on. First, he cashed in support of spades on a hand that might not even be worth its full 15 count, then he raised South's invitational bid to seven. Fortunately, South had the

skill to take advantage of a lucky distribution.

Declarer won the opening lead in hand and drew two more rounds of trumps at East discarded two diamonds. Next came a low club, and West had to swallow a poisoned pill. If he rose with the ace of clubs, declarer would have three high cards in dummy on which to discard his losing hearts—two clubs and a diamond. So West followed low, but that turned out to be no better.

Dummy's queen of clubs won, and declarer cashed out the diamonds, clapping the jack of clubs from hand. Next, he ran the queen of hearts to West's king, and that defender was faced with a pill even more noxious.

If West returned a club, he would set up the queen of clubs as a trick with a heart ruff as the entry. If, instead, he selected a heart, he would be leading into declarer's 10 tricks.

His only choice of a diamond was equally futile. Declarer ruffed in dummy and discarded a heart from hand. A successful finesse of the ten of hearts produced the 12th trick for a most fortuitous result.

(P.S. We know South should have used Stayman.)



Touche': Jurgen Neute, the world's top sabre fencer, stands ready to defend his newly gained number one spot. The 29-year-old German, who has been fencing since the age of ten, feels himself to be in his prime, claiming that the peak age for fencers is between 28 and 32.

### IAF endorses global dope control squads

GOTEBORG, Sweden (AP) — The council of the International Amateur Athletics Federation Monday proposed using international doping-control squads to test athletes anywhere in the world, the national news agency TT reported.

Officials of the International Olympic Committee also have proposed creating such global drug-testing squads.

"There must be four or five strategically placed groups that can leave on a moment's notice," said Arne Ljungquist, Sweden's member of the IAAF council.

The agency reported that the federation's governing council also gave the Belgian city of Antwerp the right to host the 1991 World Cross Country Championships, over Amortebia, Spain.

New drug-control regulations could become effective this fall when the guidelines are submitted to the IAAF congress due to meet in Barcelona, Spain, from September 4-5.

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The (international anti-doping) operation could begin immediately after a congress decision," Ljungquist told it. "We've finally agreed on strong measures regarding doping."

The congress of the 23-member world governing body will decide on a global anti-doping package including spot checks coordinated from the IAAF office in London, it reported.

"There are immense administrative, practical and economic problems, but we will solve them," Ljungquist said.

He stressed that Monday's proposal was meant to show how serious the council views the problem.

The size and cost of the operation hasn't been determined, but \$1 million will be allocated for the first year, it said.

### FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1989

## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charmed By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The new moon in Aries is always a great time to start new activities. The magnetic and enterprising qualities of Aries are a challenging influence and action have been adding to your prestige and respect.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Today it could be a bulls eye. The new moon position is in your favor. Be confident that your ideas can work.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Spending time with Mother Nature is good therapy for the nerves. Consider extended travel plans to a faraway place.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) The new moon focuses on commitment, relationships, new beginnings, and invitations. Romance can bring unusual excitement.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Little battles can turn into war. Sit down now and work out a peace agreement. It is to your advantage to make things right.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 22) Your search for power, achievement and a strong relationship is intense. The current cycle also shows a need for independence and self-sufficiency.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) The new moon focuses on increased social life, physical exercise and young people. Communications and emotional stability improve.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Opportunities for romance are available. Relationships surface, and your life is largely up to you!

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## America's Cup legal battle continues

### San Diego to challenge ruling

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — New Zealand syndicate chairman Michael Fay reacted angrily Tuesday to a San Diego Yacht Club decision to appeal the disqualification of the catamaran Stars and Stripes from the 1988 America's Cup series.

"The world will condemn San Diego for being poor sports and now bad losers," Fay told reporters.

"The world at large has applauded the correctness of judge Cipriani's ruling and is keen to get on with the next America's Cup," Fay said.

"San Diego had the opportunity to redeem itself but they have rejected it, hiding financial interests behind claims of acting for the good of the cup."

Fay later said on Radio New Zealand that he didn't expect delays resulting from the appeal to affect New Zealand plans to hold a regatta in Auckland in 1991.

"Challengers who have talked to us over the last few days are due here some time in probably about late May early June and I think what we will do is we'll just proceed with the plans for a regatta in 1991."

"I think in the short term San Diego are going to have to sign a transfer of the cup over to Mercury Bay as trustee and once that's happened we can push ahead with planning the next cup."

"I think it's manageable but it is probably more of an inconvenience to the other challengers around the world."

The appeal will leave unclear the location of the next contest until the end of the legal wrangling over yachting's premier trophy.

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The nine-member SDYC board voted unanimously to take up the appeal following Saturday's recommendation by its organiser, the America's Cup organising committee.

"As trustees, we feel our overriding responsibility is to protect the future viability of the America's Cup," said yacht club commodore Patrick Goddard.

"A sporting event cannot survive under the vague rule of the court's decision."

Goddard said he was not sure when the appeal would be filed but court procedures require the papers to be filed within 30 days of the ruling.

"When we won the cup in '87, we won the right to have the regatta here, not for the money but for the pride," said Goddard.

Conner, who in 1983 became the first U.S. skipper to lose the America's Cup, won it back from Australia in 1987 by beating Ian Murray's Kookaburra III 4-0 in the best-of-seven series.

Conner said last week he was disappointed by the judge's ruling but did not favour an appeal.

responsible for setting and administering the rules.

"The court doesn't understand that we have such an authority in our sport. It is called the International Yacht Racing Union, and has a set of rules that the SDYC has adopted. The America's Cup match in 1988 was governed by those same rules," Goddard said, adding that Mercury Bay had agreed to the IYRU rules prior to the September races.

"Mercury Bay could have protested to the international jury, but did not. Thereafter, under the racing rules, they have no right of appeal," Goddard added.

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### Bucharest prepare to meet Turks in UEFA tie

BUCHAREST (R) — Steaua Bucharest, unbeaten at home since May 1986, are confident they can secure a comfortable victory when they meet Turkish champions Galatasaray in their European Cup semifinal first leg Wednesday.

Steaua, winners of the trophy in 1986, will have more than home advantage to bolster their optimism — while they will be appearing in their third semifinal in four seasons, Galatasaray will be the first Turkish team to appear in the last four of any of the three European soccer tournaments.

Steaua coach Angel Iordanescu

believes this could be a crucial advantage.

"We may be considered lucky we face Galatasaray," he said.

"He could be playing Milan or Real Madrid and it

would be tougher. I think our

chances are good," he said.

Galatasaray reached the last

four despite having to play their

quarter-finals "home leg" against

Monaco in Cologne because of

crowd trouble at their Istanbul

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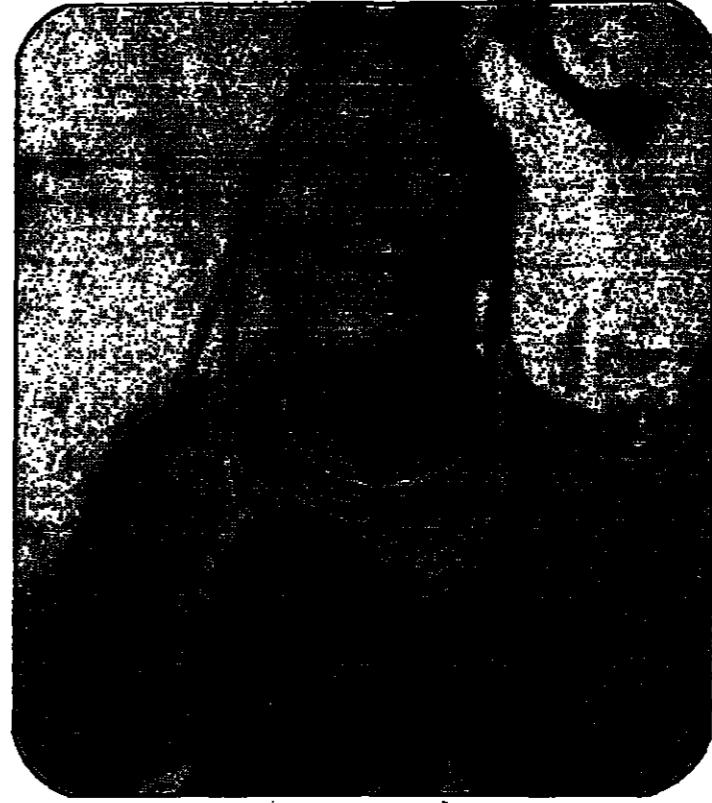
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Galatasaray reached the last

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SWAPO troops remain tense and ready. The arrival of U.N. forces has not been able to bring peace to the country



Thousands of Namibians such as this woman were out in force Friday to cheer the motorcade of the U.N. representative, Martti Ahisaari. Unfortunately the happiness was short-lived

## Namibia bush war rages despite increasing SWAPO losses

**OSHKATI, Namibia (R)** — Fierce fighting raged on in the dense bush of northern Namibia Tuesday despite mounting losses among black nationalist guerrillas who are pitted against the South African-led security forces.

A Namibian police spokesman said 161 guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) and 19 police had been killed since the low-level 23-year-old war exploded Saturday into a burst of pre-independence bloodshed.

Police said there was no possibility of negotiating with the small, scattered bands of heavily-armed SWAPO fighters who have been battling Namibian forces for four days since the start

of a U.N.-supervised transition to independence from South Africa.

"When we come into contact with SWAPO we have come under fire every time... this is not a situation where we can engage in negotiation," chief inspector Derek Brune told a news conference.

The guerrilla bands are mostly less than 10 strong.

But Colonel Michael Moriarty, who is acting as a liaison officer with the Angolan government and SWAPO in Angola told Reu-

ters in Luanda Tuesday that the U.N., Angola and SWAPO were working to organise a ceasefire.

Marrack Goulding, U.N. under-secretary for political affairs and chief of the U.N. peacekeeping forces around the world, was due in Luanda Tuesday to discuss ways of ending the fighting, he said.

Brune said six SWAPO guerrillas had been captured and an unknown number wounded, while 41 members of the security forces had been injured in one of the war's bloodiest confrontations.

Some of the heaviest fighting was at the settlement of Oshikango, near Angola about 50 kilometres north of Oshakati.

The SWAPO fighters are said to be armed with SAM-7 heat-seeking missiles, threatening air traffic.

In an account largely accepted by the United Nations, South Africa says SWAPO sparked the conflict by pushing 1,200 soldiers across the frontier from Angola Saturday in defiance of a ceasefire which was due to start April 1.

Pretoria accuses the guerrillas of trying to establish bases inside Namibia from which to influence voters during U.N.-supervised elections in November which will proclaim Namibia's independence

from Pretoria.

SWAPO counters that the security forces attacked its fighters, who were looking for U.N.-peacekeeping troops to whom they could report, as required

under the peace agreement.

Guerrilla spokesmen abroad and in Namibia reproached the 650-strong U.N. Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) for not having enough troops in the north in time for April 1.

"Where is UNTAG? They are supposed to stop the carnage in this country but instead the fighting has erupted since they came. The people are bitter," a SWAPO official in Windhoek said.

South African military intelligence announced that U.N. troops would join security force patrols as observers.

"U.N. troops will be accompanying our army patrols. By monitoring the situation they can

get a picture of it." Ovambo regional army intelligence chief Colonel Japie Dreyer told reporters in Oshakati. He did not say when they would start.

None of the light-blue bereted international peacekeeping force was visible in Oshakati.

In New York, SWAPO backers attacked the decision by the U.N. chief representative in Namibia, Martti Ahisaari, to allow South Africa troops to leave their bases, to which they had been confined since Saturday under the ceasefire pact.

Dreyer said South African and territory troops had been in action alongside the police counter-insurgency forces since midday Monday.

## Castro tight-lipped after talks

**HAVANA (AP)** — After talks with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, a cheerful President Fidel Castro seemed pleased but was noncommittal, leaving no hint that ideological differences impaired the relationship between Moscow and its longest-standing overseas ally.

"Family-like," was now Castro Monday night described the talks after bidding Gorbachev good night on the steps of the presidential palace.

When reporters pressed him for details, Castro said "glasnost manana" — the Russian word for Gorbachev's programme of greater openness and the Spanish for "tomorrow."

That was Castro's way of saying that more on the discussions will be known when Gorbachev addresses the national assembly late Tuesday afternoon, the last major scheduled event during his 63-hour stay in Cuba.

Moments before Castro said goodnight, Gorbachev descended

the steps of the ornate pre-revolutionary palace with his wife, Raisa, at his side. They received applause from the diplomats and officials who had joined them for a glittering reception.

Aside from visits to two monuments and an exhibit highlighting the achievements of the revolution, Gorbachev spent Monday with Castro in talks.

Speculation swirled all day about a possible Gorbachev announcement forgiving Cuba its debt to the Soviet Union, estimated at between \$8 billion and \$20 billion, but Castro said that issue never came up.

Debt, he said, is not a problem for Cuba but for other Latin American countries. His answer did not appear to rule out a Gorbachev announcement that he will give Cuba a break on debt repayments.

Combined with the estimated \$6 billion Cuba owes Western countries, the island is one of the most heavily indebted countries

in the world in per-capita terms.

Diplomats in Havana and in Moscow, speaking on condition they not be identified, have said the Soviets already appear to have reduced the subsidies they pay by buying Cuban sugar at higher-than-world-market prices. And some said they expected Gorbachev to tell Castro bluntly — but in private — that Cuba must put its economic house in order.

Gennady I. Gerasimov, Gorbachev's spokesman, said the morning portion of the talks stressed Latin American debt and drug trafficking.

Gorbachev told the United Nations in December the Soviet Union was prepared to offer the least-developed countries a moratorium on debt payments and "in quite a few cases to write off the debt altogether."

Castro has campaigned for years for cancellation of Latin America's \$420-billion foreign debt

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## War kills 150,000 African children

**UNITED NATIONS (R)** — About 150,000 children in southern Africa die each year because of the effects of conflict, particularly in Angola and Mozambique, according to a report published Tuesday under the auspices of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"By 1988, the number of Angolan and Mozambican children under the age of five whose lives were lost as a consequence of war and destabilisation totalled more people than were killed by atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

"The toll is still rising and will not fall until the conflicts have ceased," it said, alluding to in-

surgencies backed at various times by South Africa against those countries' Marxist governments.

The report, titled "Children on the Front Line: The Impact of Apartheid, Destabilisation and Warfare on Children in Southern and South Africa," was drafted for UNICEF by eight experts on economic, medical and political aspects of the region.

It said the nine countries of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADC) — Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe — had a population of some 70 millions.

Kohl, Mitterrand discuss missiles

**GUENZBURG, West Germany (AP)** — Chancellor Helmut Kohl took a break Tuesday from domestic woes to meet with French President Francois Mitterrand to talk about defence issue that has isolated West Germany within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance.

The question of whether the 16-nation organisation should replace its aging Lance missiles with newer, longer-range rockets was expected to be the central topic during the talks at Reisenburg castle overlooking the Donau River.

Thousands of flag-waving Bavarians turned out in this village's central marketplace to welcome the two leaders for the first of their regular exchange visits to be held in the southern German state.

Kohl flew from Bonn after a flurry of morning meetings about his impending cabinet reshuffle, to be announced in mid-April.

West Germany and France have put aside traditional differences and rivalries over the past year to join forces and work for a more influential role for Europe in East-West relations.

Both Kohl and Mitterrand have fostered close ties with

out of approximately three and a half million annual births, some 750,000 children die before the age of five. A fifth of this loss is attributed to the impact of conflict."

Drought, floods, lack of access to hard currency, falling terms of trade, rising debt service and the legacy of past mistakes in domestic policy all played a role in undermining the health and welfare of the children of southern Africa, the report said.

"But the main culprits are war and economic pressure, whose targets are not only economic and military but also the very social fabric of nations," it added.

The West German public strongly opposes modernisation on grounds that any re-armament programme would disrupt ongoing nuclear weapons talks.

Kohl has been beset with criticism of his government's handling of the missile question, as well as other defence and domestic issues. He spent the past two weeks vacationing in Austria to work out a plan to reorganise his forces.

The NATO plan calls for replacing the Lance missiles, which are capable of reaching targets about 120 kilometres away, with modern rockets that have a range of 500 kilometres. The changeover would not be executed until the mid-1990s, but U.S. officials contend a go-ahead vote was needed now to allow time to win the U.S. Congress support for a new missile programme.

Mitterrand has sided with the United States and Britain in pushing an endorsement of the modernisation plan. The next NATO summit is in Brussels at

Scholz is considered by voters to be the architect of the Bonn government's defence policies.

In addition to broad public resistance to the modernisation proposal, the Bonn government has been criticised for allowing NATO troops to stage disruptive manoeuvres and low-level flying practice over heavily populated West German territory.

Both Kohl and Mitterrand have fostered close ties with

## El Salvador



## Salvador army cited in deaths of journalists

**SAN SALVADOR (R)** — El Salvador's most respected human rights monitor said Monday the armed forces committed serious rights violations in the deaths of three journalists covering last month's presidential elections.

The Catholic Church's legal support office Tutela Legal said that in the deaths of the journalists — two Salvadorean and a Dutchman — government soldiers had committed "grave crimes" for which they should face civil charges.

"These acts represent grave violations of human rights," Tutela Legal concluded in a 15-page review of the three cases.

Salvadorean photographer Roberto Navas was killed and fellow Salvadorean photographer Luis Galdeza was seriously wounded when they were fired upon by air force troops after crossing a check point in San Salvador on election eve.

Both freelance photographers were covering the election for Reuters.

On election day March 19, Mauricio Pineda de Leon, a soundman for Channel 12 local television, was shot dead in the station's car at an army roadblock near San Miguel city 140 Kilometres east of San Salvador.

Dutch television cameraman Cornel Lagrouw, was killed while covering a battle between government troops and rebels in San Francisco Javier in southeastern El Salvador.

Foreign journalists evacuating Lagrouw said an army helicopter fired on their vehicle, forcing them to seek cover several times before they could reach a local hospital.

"The two cases of the Salvadorean journalists and the attack on the foreign journalists driving their cars are grave crimes committed by members of the armed forces in which the penal code should be applied," the Tutela Legal review said.

Security was tight as hundreds of police and security agents ringed Seoul district court for the hearing. South Korean law stipulates a court hearing must be held even if a suspect has confessed.

Kim said in a televised news conference in January 1988 that

## Wage dispute threatens Warsaw-Solidarity talks

**WARSAW (AP)** — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa went home to Gdansk Tuesday after a marathon negotiating session with authorities in Poland's future broke up over the issue of protecting workers' incomes.

A spokesman in Walesa's office in Gdansk confirmed he had gone home and said Walesa would return to Warsaw Wednesday morning.

But the Solidarity leader's sudden departure from the capital appeared to cast doubt on the possibility of concluding a historic reform agreement with authorities Wednesday, as originally planned.

In Warsaw, negotiators were seeking ways to overcome the disagreement with the official trade union alliance OPZZ over linking wage increases to the inflation rate. The dispute emerged

earlier Tuesday, threatening to scuttle agreements on economic and political reforms reached during two months of talks between Solidarity and authorities.

An "editing" committee of senior government and opposition negotiators met at the council of ministers palace in Warsaw, a source close to Solidarity said.

Walesa's decided to make the four-hour drive to Gdansk immediately after a 10-hour meeting with Interior Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak ended at 2 a.m.

The Solidarity leader had been expected to stay in Warsaw Tuesday for further talks with Kiszczak. State-controlled radio reported at midday the talks had resumed.

"All I can say is that the talks are to be continued," Ryszard Straus of the government press

office said when asked about the developments. A government news conference scheduled for Tuesday was cancelled.

Solidarity and the government, in separate statements early Tuesday, expressed hope that agreement could be reached despite the dispute with the OPZZ.

The key outstanding issue appears to be a Solidarity proposal to index wages to prices to protect workers' incomes against inflation. Solidarity and the government have agreed that workers would have wages increased at 80 per cent of the inflation rate.

Under the plan, if consumer prices rise by 50 per cent, a worker would be guaranteed an automatic raise of 40 per cent. High-earning workers would get more in compensation than low-earning workers.

## India opposition walks out over assassination report

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — Opposition parliament members walked out Tuesday after the government refused to release two volumes of a secret inquiry into the 1984 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The walkout occurred in the upper house, while in the lower house, an opposition move to invite legal opinion on what constituted the full report was rejected when ruling Congress Party members voted against the proposal.

The government on March 27 released the interim and final report of the inquiry into Gandhi's assassination but withheld two volumes of appendices, saying they contained classified material.

The released volumes, which had been kept secret for three

years on grounds of state security, concluded there were reasonable grounds to suspect that Gandhi's personal assistant, Rajendra Kumar Dhawan, was involved in the assassination.

In the Rajya Sabha, or upper house, the government said it had fulfilled its statutory obligations by releasing the interim and final reports.

Before walking out, opposition Janata Party member M.S. Gurupadaswamy said the government's stand was "unreasonable, inflexible and irresponsible." He said withholding of parts of the report raised suspicion that the government was concealing facts.

Gandhi was shot and killed in the garden of her New Delhi residence Oct. 31, 1984 by two of her Sikh bodyguards.

One of the assassins was shot

and killed by other bodyguards. The other was hanged in January after being convicted of murder.

While turning over the report to parliament, Home Minister Buta Singh said the allegations against Dhawan had been investigated by a special team of detectives and found baseless.

Dhawan, 52, left his post soon after Gandhi's assassination but returned to the government in February as an aide to her son and successor, Rajiv Gandhi.

The inquiry gave no motive for Dhawan's alleged involvement, but noted Gandhi had reprimanded him a month before the assassination and made inquiries about replacing him.

It accused him of facilitating Gandhi's murder by countermanding an order to change security provisions.